

The Washington Times

PUBLISHED EVERY EVENING
(Including Sunday)
By The Washington Times Company
THE MUSEY BUILDING, PENNA. AVE.
FRANK A. MUNSEY, President.
R. H. TITHERINGTON, Secretary.
C. H. POPE, Treasurer.
One Year (Including Sunday), \$2.50.
Six Months, \$1.50. Three Months, .85.
Entered at the postoffice at Washington, D. C., as second class mail matter.

THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 1914.

NOW, KEEP BOOKS!

If you are an income tax payer, or are of the large class that must report whether it pays or not, you have doubtless been impressed with the fact that you know mighty little about your own business of the past year.

Especially if you are a professional or salaried man.

The lesson is that every man ought to keep a reasonably complete accounting of his affairs at all times. Nearly everybody is just now resolving to do so for the future; a few will actually do it.

As a matter of fact, most people who have income to account for under the new law could very well afford to pay the tax if it would be an inducement to them to systematize their affairs by keeping accounts. There would be more economy as a result of such organization than the tax would cost.

GERMANY AND RUSSIA.

A section of the German press is excited about extensive military maneuvers that are being held by the Russian army, not very far from the frontier of the two countries. One insistent report is that the French government, concerned about the aggressive military program of Germany, has asked the Russian government to hold these maneuvers, by way of keeping Germany in mind of the fact that there is an alliance between France and Russia, and that in case of trouble Germany could expect to have the Czar's army on his eastern frontier, as well as the French forces on his western.

To this theory another element reports that Russia is aiming her demonstration against Austria, rather than Germany; that Austria, having been worsted in most of the diplomatic maneuvers of recent years looking to preeminence in the near east, is in a bad state of mind, and Russia feels the need of maintaining plenty of force where it could be effectively used if necessary.

And yet further, there is the explanation that Russia faces a renewal of internal disturbances, and has need to stir up a foreign war excitement in order to distract the attention of the Russian people from the activities of the revolutionists. Popular education is spreading steadily in Europe, and the popular economic condition is slowly rising. These things make for the growth of social consciousness and unrest; and, as always, the ministers of reaction find their surest protection against progress to lie in development of foreign complications. If Russia needs a foreign war or war scare, it is because Russia is threatened with a too insistent demand for some social and economic progress.

MORTUARY MEMORIALS TO THE FLY.

Has it ever occurred to the people of the District of Columbia who visit the beautiful cemeteries surrounding their city on Decoration Day, or at other times, that a large percentage of the monuments they see dotting the smooth green lawns or nestled beneath the trees are memorials of the energy and sinister efficiency of the house fly?

This is especially true of those little marble figures that are raised over the small mounds beneath which lie the bodies of the infants sacrificed through ignorance.

For a number of years the American Civic Association and public health agencies have called attention to the dreadful scourge of the house fly. When the anti-fly campaigns were first started it was along the line of killing them during the first warm days of summer. Much of the energy expended was wasted because the flies multiplied much more rapidly than the blows at its existence found their mark. The campaigns accomplished some good results, but were largely like the effort of the old lady who attempted to sweep back the tide—where one fly was swatted a thousand came to take its place.

Yesterday the Health Officer of the District asked the District residents to help him get after the fly now—before the warm weather has permitted the beginning of that tremendous multiplication that makes a swatting campaign partially useful, but almost wholly ineffectual in really stopping the pest. The cry now is to "Head Off the Fly" rather than wait until he has attained his full growth and entered upon his career of disease spreading.

There is no question that a preventive campaign started now and maintained with sufficient vigor will

reduce flies to a far greater degree than the most energetic and successful swatting campaign two or three months later.

The breeding place of flies is in filth.

The way to stop the fly is by preventing the accumulation of filth, and by utilizing the simple disinfecting agencies that the Health Department will furnish to every citizen. It has been estimated that every fly killed in March means a million less flies in August.

Let the good citizens of Washington heed the advice of Health Officer Woodward and enlist themselves at once in this campaign. It will materially reduce 1914's additions to these granite memorials one finds at Glenwood, Arlington, Oak Hill, and the other burial plots.

A WONDERFUL RECORD.

Long before the word "feminist" had crept into the language, and in the days when woman suffrage was looked upon as a freak political idea like free silver or single tax, a group of Washington women met at All Souls' Church and formed the Twentieth Century Club.

That was twenty-four years ago. Today the club is holding its annual meeting and revising its constitution to conform to the growing work and widening activities of the body.

In its twenty-four years this club has managed to correlate its efforts with nearly every philanthropic and charitable effort made in the Capital. Avoiding publicity, it has invariably backed all sorts of movements for woman's betterment, without ever advocating any special propaganda. Its influence today is felt in dozens of institutions and organizations for humanitarian effort.

It has constantly kept before it the idea for which it was formed, the self-improvement of its members. And its various "sections," clubs themselves within the big club, have offered courses of study in subjects ranging from parliamentary law to art, and from literature to travel.

Such organizations are a distinct asset to any community, and aside from its actual accomplishments, this club has been a special benefit to Washington in keeping alive among its members a fine sense of civic pride and desire for service.

CHANGES IN THE MEXICAN SITUATION.

When President Wilson entered upon his office this country was already struggling against a current, carrying it straight toward intervention in Mexico. The new President changed the direction of its struggles. He would have had the same loyal support of press and country no matter whether he had seen fit to continue his predecessor's policy or evolved some other plan of escaping from the difficulty than that which he did adopt. Certainly he cannot complain of the backing he has received. He has the more cause for being pleased with it because it was extended despite the fact that there has been grave distrust of Secretary Bryan's fitness to direct the diplomatic functions of the nation at such a time.

For the last week and more there has been evidence that the public's patience is breaking down. There is no call either to defend or criticize the policy that has been followed. No man can tell what would have happened had Huerta been recognized. That was one alternative. To pin faith in Carranza, a man with not by any means a bad record in the past and who was apparently growing in influence, was the only other. But in either case we had only the weakest foundations on which to build. That within a period of months there would develop any real public spirit and regard for the law, where none had existed during centuries, was at best a forlorn hope. Nor need the Administration be blamed that it is failing us.

But it certainly is failing us. The Benton case is not of paramount importance in itself. It is inconceivable that England should press this country into war to avenge the death of one Englishman; or that we should contemplate war as a result of it, except as it disclosed and emphasized the true hopelessness of looking for a solution of Mexico's troubles at the hands of the revolutionists. And what else is left us? America has scarcely realized to what an extent its Mexican policy rested only secondarily on the success of the constitutionalists and primarily upon the character of the constitutional leader.

The support given the President has had but one source. It has flowed from knowledge that in him lay the hope of avoiding war, that he wanted to avoid it, and that the country wanted to avoid it. He has thus far not engaged us. He has succeeded in impressing upon Europe our intense unwillingness to enter upon a conflict, and he has given his own people time to appreciate fully the consequences a conflict will entail in case we are forced into one.

The Times believes that there is not a shadow more of desire for war today than there was a week or a month ago. But war is nearer. Look

far ahead as we can, there is not to be seen one ray of light emanating from within Mexico itself. The last week has demonstrated that if we are to go on watchfully waiting we must do it in the dark and not for Mexico but for ourselves. Nevertheless, it behooves this country not to let itself get out of hand. If we survive this Benton affair the one day, another spark may appear the next. But let it be remembered that we are not yet at war, and that conditions cannot grow much worse.

We have reached the point where we must either watch and wait or go to war. There need be no talk of fear or indecision. The day may be close by when our responsibilities will outweigh our repugnance to intervention. The whole American public is prepared to meet that day when it comes, and the world knows it. But the nearer it seems to be, the greater is the need of self-restraint, lest we mistakenly think it is at hand.

But if the public, in recognition of the grim alternative, does restrain itself, is it not too much to ask that while it is doing so it should be forced to watch the flow of arms into Mexico?

The embargo was lifted a month ago. But, whether a month or a day or a year ago, whether or not there has been time for a forward movement or a decisive battle since then, the events of the last week have materially affected the reason for lifting it.

Is it not time to cast aside all altruism, academic arguments, sympathies for this party or that, and by way of preparing ourselves for practical possibilities, weigh this question:

Which is more likely today—the creation of a stable, constitutional, and orderly government in Mexico by Villa, or intervention?

ONE TOWEL FOR 300.

Printers love to recount that composing room classic of the reporter who came back to the old office after twenty years, looked about in vain for a familiar face, and finally paused in respectful recognition before the office roller towel. It was the only familiar thing in the establishment.

Progress has been made in hygiene since that day. In one Washington school, for example, the roller towel, doing duty for only 300 pupils, is changed every day. Now Congressman Rogers of Massachusetts, acting upon information forwarded him by Mrs. Ellen A. Vinton, chairman of the education committee of the Associated Alumnae of the United States, wants the roller towel, for school use, abolished altogether.

It should not be necessary to clutter up Congress with details of that sort. But if that is the only way to abolish roller towels in Washington's public schools, let us have legislation to that end by all means.

Many folk think the fear of germs is carried too far. Certainly no one wants to carry prophylactic measures in schools to the point where the pupils become oversensitive about their health. But they have a right to the same protection they are afforded in their homes. No sane person would advocate exposing hundreds of school children to germ-infested towels for the sake of the small saving effected by not introducing any one of dozens of modern schemes for preventing such contamination.

Mechanical or Human?
It's Difficult to Tell

Crowds of people have flocked around the windows of the Newark shoe stores the last few days to see the mechanical man, which is attracting much attention.

One says, "He is alive," another, "It's a dummy." Both are right, but the question is, which is the real man?

"Of course, he's alive," said one man. "Human ingenuity can go pretty far, but it can't make anything like that. But in which one goes in the window, it was the 'mechanical man' in the window at that time. If he had come back later he would have seemed real man. But the question is which is the real man, and which is the dummy? Try to find out and release him with the warning not to do it again."

This is all right and to a certain extent is justice tempered with mercy, for, in itself, the misdeed is small, and a warning may awaken the offender to a realization of his duty as citizens and discard the refuse matter immediately.

Occasionally a policeman in the vicinity spots the culprit, crosses over and warns him in a basso-profundo voice and releases him with the warning not to do it again.

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Beauty In Washington



THE ugly duckling bent his neck to let the beautiful swan kiss him and saw the reflection, his reflection, of a graceful and beautiful bird in the water.

Now the moral of THAT is: Look in the mirror, or send your picture to The Times, and you will be able to see whether or not you are beautiful. This page is a mirror for pretty girls, for beautiful girls, for attractive girls, for girls who possess that effervescent thing called charm.

Look in the mirror today and see if you do not think you are prettier than a picture. As pretty at least—and if you are, you should prove it.

If you are a young man and happen to think that the girl of your choice is far prettier than the picture appearing today, you should at least have confidence enough to give her a chance to prove it. Send her picture.

Are You Doing Your Part
To Keep City Clean

Washington's third annual "clean-up" campaign will soon be in full swing and the District government has enlisted the aid of all civic associations to bring home to individual citizens the importance of the five days from April 13 to 18.

A general appeal is issued calling on every citizen to do his share by caring for the vicinity of his individual premises.

KEEPING STREETS CLEAN.

One of the most important aids citizens may render, not only through the clean-up period, but throughout the year, is in observance of a much-neglected police regulation regarding the throwing of trash and refuse upon the streets.

The people know, vaguely, that such a regulation exists—often it passes from their minds, and in a moment of abstraction or carelessness they casually drop a discarded newspaper, empty tobacco pack, or crumpled ball of paper into the gutter. Sometimes they look about in an expectant way for one of the familiar red trash boxes, and, if there is not one in the immediate vicinity, take it as an invasion of their sovereign rights, feel a great sense of pride in having done their duty as citizens, and discard the refuse matter immediately.

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The Silver
Lining

Edited By ARTHUR BAER.

Village in Maine refuses to allow automobiles within its limits, which describes perfectly why it is a village in Maine.

Ferdinand Pinney Earle spends his time writing poetry in jail. If the poetry is as bad as Ferdinand, that's where it deserves to be.

See by the stock market reports that coffee has advanced considerably following firmness abroad, but the cup we got this morning showed a decided decline.

THE OLDEST INHAB SEZ—

"If all March
Forths were as
pleasant as yesterday,
wouldn't
be nothin' to re-
lieve th' monotony
of bein' Vice Pres-
ident at all."

The British are preparing for a race to the Antarctic, but apparently have given up their original itinerary, which included a sortie through Mexico first.

SULLY Sir Ernest Shackleton should understand that the Panama canal is at his entire disposal at the regular toll rates. Anything we can do to help the trip along will be cheerfully accomplished.

The cold weather and blizzards along the Atlantic seaboard wouldn't be so bad, if we could only keep the hens from finding it out.

Green wigs may come and orange wigs may go, but John D.'s goes merrily on forever.

Villa says that he is willing to meet England halfway in the Benton inquiry. Good. Half way would be right in the middle of the Atlantic ocean, where it is three miles deep. Remember your promise, Senator Villa.

Army and Navy Union says the President's waiting policy is a mistake. Apparently, wants the President to short wait "em."

MAIL BAG
(From The Times Readers.)

To the Editor of THE TIMES:

I see another meeting of the Civil Service Association will be held shortly. Now, I do hope they will get together and let Congress pass a bill regardless of what onlookers the association may advance. Here us old clerks are dying off every day. It won't be long until there will be no more of us left.

I am afflicted with a complication of diseases incident to old age. I only work about half time. I am liable to die any time. If I had a small pension of \$1 a day (I get \$1.40) I could go back to my old home and rent a house and garden for \$8 per month—keep a few chickens, etc., and by resting I might have a while longer, but being compelled to come to office and suffer every day (when able) it is simply killing me. I have never patented, my record in office is good, but sickness and death have dragged me down to the bottom and if Congress don't give us a small pension this time, I will be an object of charity. I have no place to lay my head.

To the Editor of THE TIMES:

Your several caricatures in recent issues of The Times in regard to the lives, duties, etc., of Government clerks have been much enjoyed by the writer, as, I believe, judging from comments heard, by many others, but the greater injustice to the clerks has not been represented, viz: the tyrannical, slave-driving, dominating, and overbearing chiefs of divisions. This is a subject I find prevails in several, if not all, of the departments. I have never noticed a noticeable fact that the higher the authority of the individual, the more dominating and overbearing he is. In some departments this is a habit has become so marked and so firmly fixed that it is not allowed to converse to a fellow clerk, even on strict business matters which they are handling at the time. Were this only for the good of the service, or the efficiency of the office, no comment could be made, but when it is recognized as being purely to show the high and exalted position these chiefs occupy, it is overbearing, to say the least.

The writer would suggest that one of your staff, if you see so inclined, interview clerks in five several departments, and the writer is sure that, though some departments may, as yet, be exempt from this, the latest petty tyranny on the faithful and hard-working clerks, enough grounds will be found to warrant a caricature on the subject, which will be a fair and just representation of what can be truly said.

With best wishes for your success, respectfully,
"A MUZZLED CLERK."

Weds Girl Who Sued
Him For \$500,000

NEW YORK, March 5.—It's cheaper to wed than face a \$500,000 breach of promise suit, was the comment in society circles today, when it was learned that Miss Monica T. Borden, and Octavio Guinle, wealthy Brazilian importers, were quietly married last night at the Hotel Marlborough, where Guinle has been confined to his room with a fever.

Guinle said parental objections had induced him to break his engagement to Miss Borden on February 2, the date set for the wedding. Miss Borden immediately sued for \$500,000, and Guinle deposited \$500,000 cash bond after his arrest as he was about to sail for Europe. Both hearts still pined, however, and Guinle's illness hastened the marriage.

Mrs. James R. Ellerson entertained today at a buffet luncheon at her home in R Street in honor of Mrs. Fairfax Harrison, wife of the new president of the Southern railroad. Assisting Mrs. Ellerson were Mrs. Daniels, wife of the Secretary of the Navy; Mrs. Franklin Roosevelt; Mrs. Roger Dulany, Mrs. A. K. Phillips, and Mrs. F. E. Nash.

Mrs. De Fries Critten is entertaining this afternoon at a bridge party of six tables at her home, 125 Le Roy place, Mrs. William P. Tilton, who is Mrs. Critten's house guest, is the guest of honor.

Mrs. Charles Carroll Lee is giving a tea this afternoon in honor of Mrs. Charles Perkins, who is visiting Mrs. Lee.

Colonel Lauchheimer will be host this evening at a dinner in honor of Major General and Mrs. Barnett. General Barnett, who is the new commandant of the Marine Corps, and Mrs. Barnett have moved into their new home at the Marine Barracks.

The Vice President and Mrs. Marshall were the guests last night at an informal dinner given by Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Caspar Miller at their home in F Street.

Amusements.

National—"The Avenger," 8:15 p. m., 8:45 p. m.
Columbia—"The Grain of Dust," 2:15 and 8:15 p. m.
Palace—"Bunny Pulls the Strings," 8:20 p. m., 10:15 p. m.
Tulsa—"When Nightingale Was in Flower," 2:15 and 8:15 p. m.
Keith-Vaudeville, 2:15 and 8:15 p. m.
Gaiety-Burlesque, 2:15 and 8:15 p. m.

Beware of Ill-Timed
Bluffs Likely to Cost
You Important Point

By TONY BIDDLE.

DON'T throw any bluffs you can't back up. An ill-timed bluff once cost Joe Walcott a terrible beating and lost him any chances he may have had at the time to win the welterweight championship. Incidentally, it was responsible for the roughest and foulest fight that has ever disgraced the American ring.

The confirmed bluffer is a despicable creature. From the terminology of the card table we have derived the term "four-flusher" to describe him, and the description fits. Don't be a four-flusher. Don't pretend to be what you are not or to be able to do what you cannot do. The greater the respect and esteem you gain through false pretense, the greater the contempt and distrust that will be felt for you after the exposure which must inevitably come.

Walcott could hardly be called a consistent bluffer. As a rule he had little to say, and, besides, he had the goods in the pugilistic line.

When he was matched with Mysterious Billy Smith, for the first time he was just at the crest of a wave of success which had swept him from a stevedore job in Boston harbor to the position of contender for the welterweight title, a well-to-do and successful pugilist, and he was not a little puffed up at his sudden prosperity.

Joe was a terrible man in those days. Sawn off and squatly, with withered, heavy legs and arms thicker than heavyweight Champion Jim Jeffries, and almost as long, he was a bullet-headed, fighting aviator, more like an ape than a man.

Smith in those days was little more than a lad, slim and not unpleasant looking. Walcott looked on him as merely one more victim. He grinned as he looked Smith over. "Ah! I just rough that white boy 'til he breaks in half," he said. Smith heard him say it. His ferocious temper, ungovernable even then, flared up like fire in that. His cheeks grew brick-red and he leaped up and started for the negro.

Friends restrained him and persuaded him to leave the building, but not until Joe was a terrible man in those days. Sawn off and squatly, with withered, heavy legs and arms thicker than heavyweight Champion Jim Jeffries, and almost as long, he was a bullet-headed, fighting aviator, more like an ape than a man.

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